

DOCKET NO.: VERT-0003
Application No.: 10/087,363
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PATENT

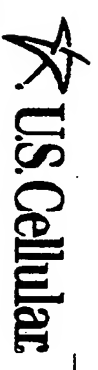
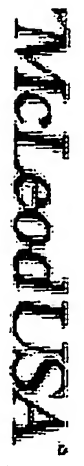
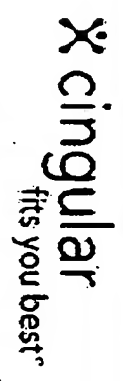
Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheet(s) of drawings includes changes to Fig(s) 1-23. In particular, reference numerals, corresponding to those added to the specification, have been added to the respective figures. The sheet(s), which includes Fig(s) 1-23, replaces the original sheet(s) including Fig(s) 1-23.

Attachment: replacement sheet(s)

Neutral Tandem Customers

NEUTRAL TANDEM™



PAETEC

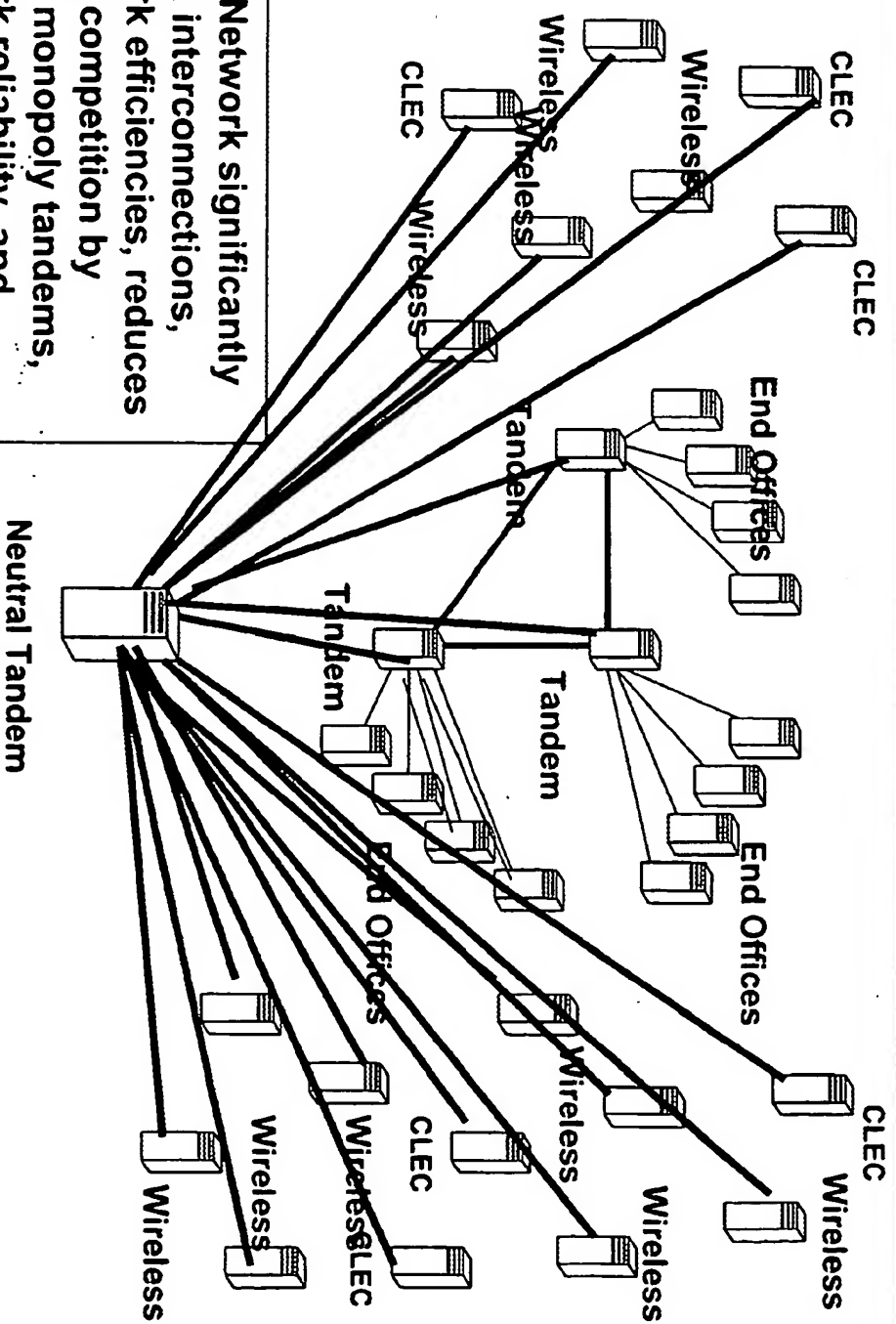
9/7/2004

Proprietary and Confidential

Make every minute count.

Neutral Tandem Network

NEUTRAL TANDEM™



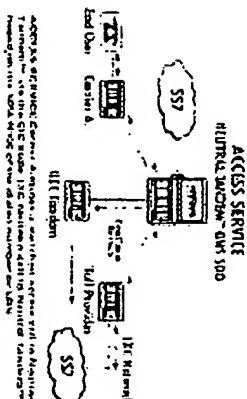
Neutral Tandem Network significantly reduces network interconnections, improves network efficiencies, reduces costs, enhances competition by minimizing ILEC monopoly tandems, improves network reliability, and enables efficient protocol conversion.

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NEUTRAL TANDEN™



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Neutral: Technically independent, not part of a proprietary network (i.e., with end users)

Tandem: A physical network topology where connectivity between circuits is achieved by linking several locations together in a chain using private line circuits. *

Network: An integrated platform consisting of switch(es) and circuits overlaying ILEC and competitive carrier switches

* Newton's Telecom Dictionary 1998

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Neutral Tandem Vs. Prior Art

NEUTRAL TANDDEM™

<u>Features*</u>	<u>Neutral Tandem</u>	<u>Prior Art</u>
Independent Network (not part of proprietary network or competitor)	Yes	No
Single Point of Connection	Yes	No
Multiple Protocols (e.g., TDM/IP, Ethernet)	Yes	No
Various Interfaces—"Fat Pipes" (DS3, OC3)	Yes	No
Mix Traffic Types Over Connections (e.g., Local, LD)	Yes	No
Includes Transport with Tandem Switching (i.e, complete network)	Yes	No
Interconnects Public and Private Carriers	Yes	No

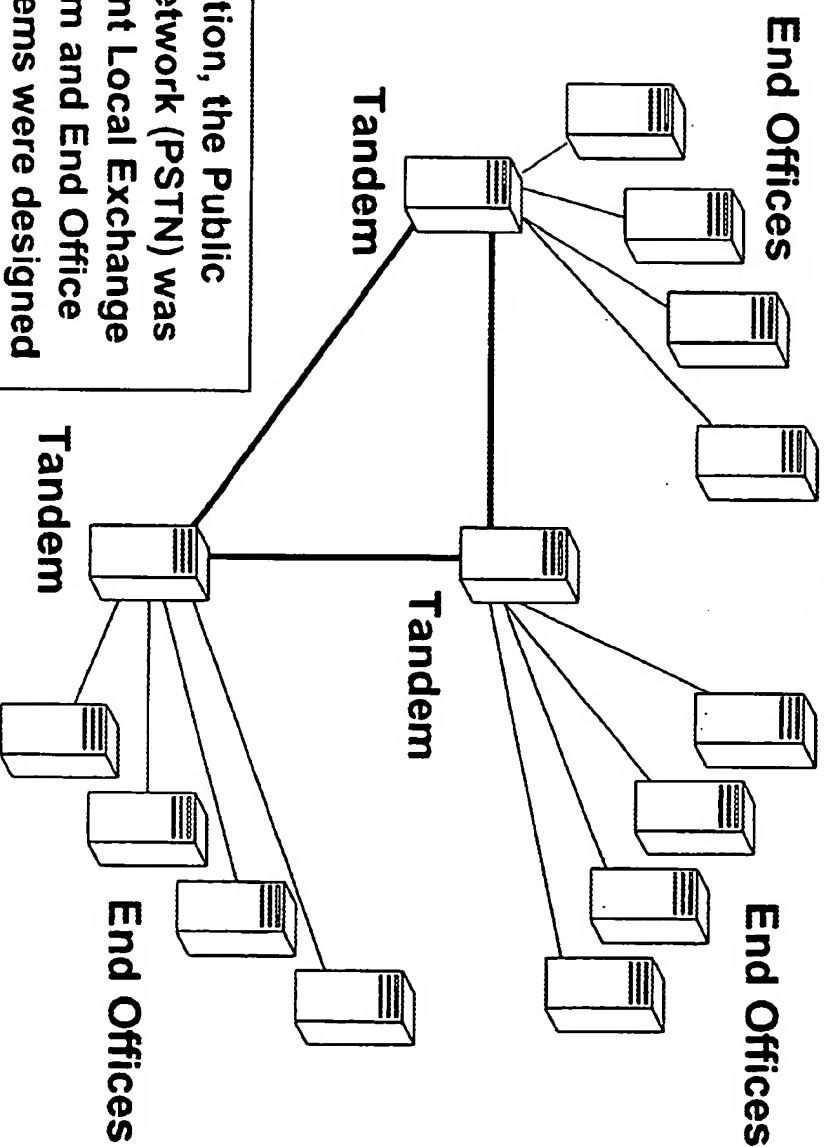
* Not exhaustive

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ILEC Tandem Network (Prior Art) **NEUTRAL TANDem™**



Before local competition, the Public Switch Telephone Network (PSTN) was made up of Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier (ILEC) Tandem and End Office switches. ILEC Tandems were designed to route traffic between ILEC switches.

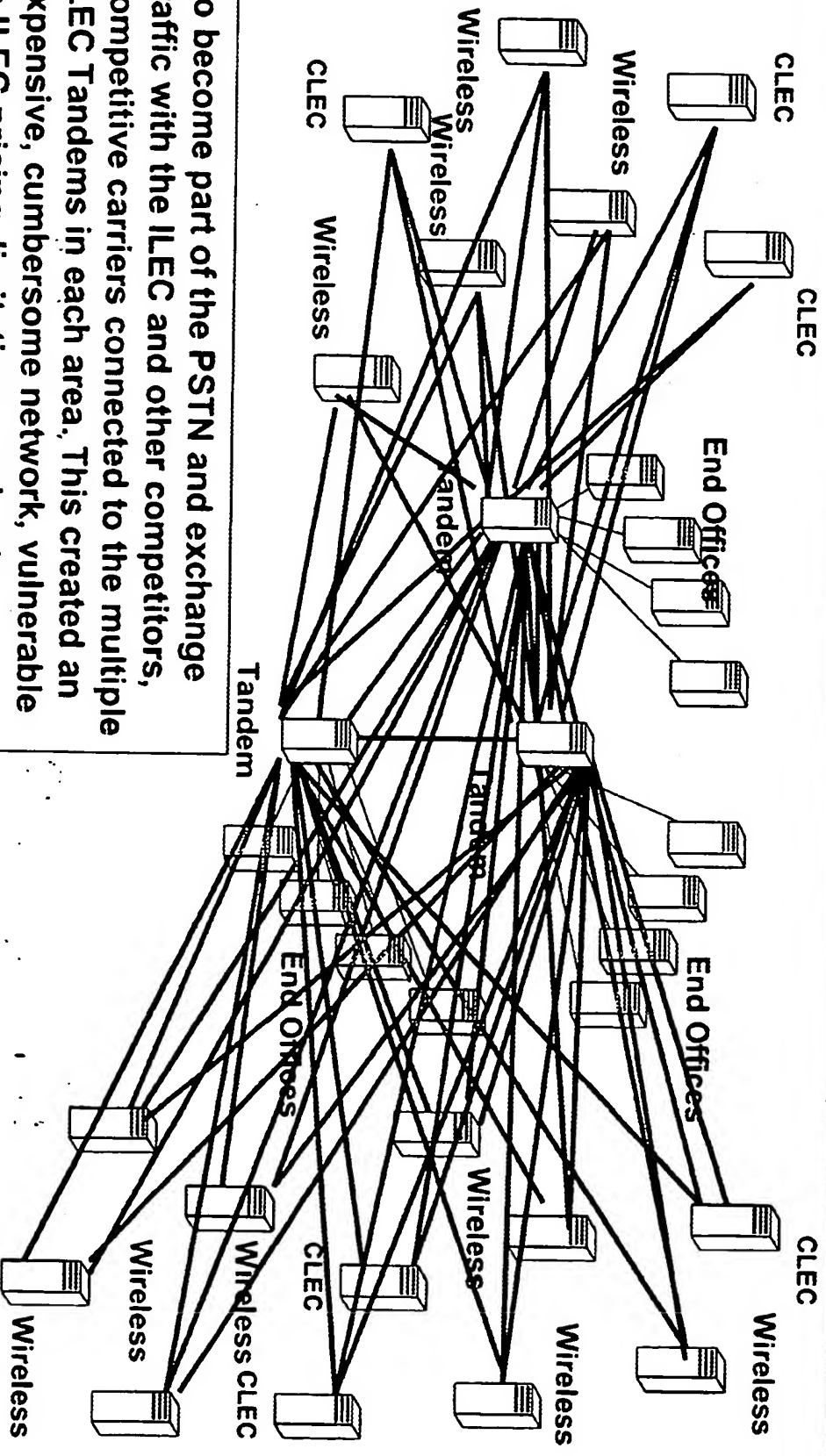
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Current ILEC Tandem Network

NEUTRAL TANDEM™



To become part of the PSTN and exchange traffic with the ILEC and other competitors, competitive carriers connected to the multiple ILEC Tandems in each area. This created an expensive, cumbersome network, vulnerable to ILEC pricing, limitations, and outages.

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